

What not to put in your Sewer System

Many materials potentially flushed or poured down the drain can harm the pipes that connect to our sewers, the sewers themselves as well harm the treatment system. Eventually this will harm our environment.

Don't flush down non-readily dissolvable items. If it doesn't dissolve immediately in a bowl, it has no place in the sewer. The exception, of course, is toilet paper.

Grease is a major problem for our system. It will coat the sewer walls and eventually cause a clog and back up. In addition the treatment plant does not degrade grease very well. Pour grease into a container, let it solidify and throw it in the trash.

Obviously toxic materials are not allowed. Anything that contains mercury or PCP's is prohibited. Paints, pesticides, paint thinners, solvents, explosive mixtures, lubricating oil, and unused medications are also not allowed. The county has provided hazardous waste collection days to enable proper disposal of these items.

Other common items that should not be flushed into the sewer system.

- Plastic objects (toys, eating utensils, etc)
- Glass, metal, wood or soil
- Cooking oil, or other edible food oils
- Rags, condoms, sanitary napkins, diapers, tampons, paper towels, cotton balls and swabs, cigarettes.
- Hair clippings

A word about winterizing your home.

You should use RV antifreeze or other antifreeze that does not contain ethylene glycol as ethylene glycol is hard for the treatment system to destroy. While propylene glycol (found in RV antifreeze) can be treated by the plant system.

It would also be good not to overuse your garbage disposals. Most of what is commonly put into disposals can go into the waste basket. Consider composting.

When you use good judgment about what you put into the sewer system you help the environment and work to keep your sewer operating costs under control. If you have questions please call 231-386-5182 ext 15.